



Empire

About one-half natural size

NEW STRAWBERRY VARIETIES

By George L. Slate

EMPIRE

EMPIRE (N. Y. 25460) originated from a cross made in 1940 between Dresden and Sparkle. It was selected in 1942 from a population of 476 seedlings. The New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y., introduced Empire in its 1952-53 catalog.

Empire is the handsomest and one of the largest strawberries grown at Geneva. Its attractiveness is due to its unusually bright glossy medium red color and bright green calyx, or cap. Its large size is maintained very well through the season with very few sterile flowers, a feature which contributes to the heavy crop characteristic of the variety.

In a frost at Geneva, the flowers experienced less injury than those of Howard (Premier). One report from Michigan also indicates considerable frost resistance in Empire.

The light flesh color makes Empire less desirable for processing than other varieties.

Empire is superior to Howard (Premier) in vigor of plant, size of fruit, attractiveness, toughness of skin, and dessert quality. In productivity, it is at least the equal of Howard.

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The performance of Empire at Geneva and in growers' plantings has been excellent and it is recommended for extensive trial for commercial plantings as a fresh fruit variety. Its good quality and attractiveness commend it to the home fruit grower.

Plants numerous, produced freely, very productive; leaves medium size, dull, medium green, smooth with tendency to cup up; petioles long, medium thick; flowers perfect, large, with 5-6 petals; stamens numerous; fruit-stems long, medium thick; semi-erect, usually with the fruit clustered at the top; pedicels medium in length and thickness; with widespreading pubescence; calyx large, raised except on few of largest berries where it is depressed, usually reflexed, bright green, adhering firmly; sepals long and medium wide; fruit very large, maintaining size well through the season, round conic to roundish wedge conic, slightly irregular; apex pointed; color very glossy medium red, coloring evenly; skin medium tough; seeds medium in number, even with the surface, not seedy in appearance; flesh light red, with whitish ring around center, juicy, with a hollow center, subacid; quality good, season 2-5 days later than Howard (Premier).

EDEN

THE Eden strawberry was produced by crossing Dresden with Fairfax in 1940. In 1942 it was selected from a population of 970 seedlings. Eden was named in 1951 and introduced in the spring of 1952 by the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y., and cooperating growers.

Eden is a processing variety. In tests at this Station it has made a satisfactory sliced frozen product, being fully equal to Sparkle in that respect. The color and flavor are excellent. In firmness after defrosting it is similar to Sparkle. It is suitable for preserving. A commercial processor considers Eden suitable for canning and reports that it was very easily hulled and "after processing color was very good and excellent flavor". The firm, red flesh and tart flavor are desirable characteristics of a processing variety.

The productiveness and suitability for processing make Eden a variety for the commercial grower. It is also worth growing for home freezing and preserving, but the flavor is rather tart for dessert purposes.

Eden is darker in color than Empire and Erie, but it is glossy and attractive in appearance. The skin is tougher and the flesh firmer than with most standard varieties. The fruit stems hold the berries above the foliage.

Plants vigorous, produced freely, medium in height, productive, leaves large, dark green, slightly glossy, rugose; petioles medium in length and thickness; flowers perfect, medium size, with 5-7 petals; stamens numerous; fruit stems long, medium thick, erect, with the fruit clustered at the top; pedicels medium in length, slender, with appressed pubescence; calyx medium size, slightly raised, often clasping, bright green, of mod-



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erate adherence to fruit; sepals medium in length and width; fruit large, maintaining size well throughout the season, conic, a few of the larger berries roundish wedge, regular; apex pointed; color glossy dark red, coloring evenly; skin tough; seeds numerous, even to slightly raised; flesh red, juicy, firm, solid, except in larger berries which are slightly hollow, tart; quality fair; season a day or two earlier than Sparkle.

ERIE

E_{RIE} (N. Y. 28340) was raised from seed of Sparkle pollinated by Howard (Premier) in 1940. It was selected in 1942 from a population of 371 seedlings. The New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y., first offered Erie in its 1952-53 catalog.

Erie is a large, very productive, fair quality variety worthy of trial for commercial planting. Compared with Howard (Premier), Erie is about a week later, has a tougher skin, and is about the same in quality. The size of Erie holds up very well throughout the season, and there are very few nubbins, or sterile flowers at the end of the season. It is an attractive, glossy, medium red color.

Plants very vigorous, produced freely, tall, very productive; leaves large; glossier and darker green than most varieties, rugose; petioles long and thick; flowers perfect, large, usually with 5-6 petals, sometimes



Erie

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7; stamens numerous; fruit-stems medium in length and thickness, semi-erect, with the fruit clustered at the top; pedicel medium in length and thickness with widespread pubescence; calyx below medium size, raised, clasping on smaller berries, bright green, adhering firmly; sepals medium in length, narrow; fruit large maintaining size well throughout the season, usually conic, a few long conic, regular; apex pointed; color glossy, medium red, attractive, coloring evenly; skin medium tough; seeds medium in number, even with the surface or slightly sunken, not seedy in appearance; flesh light red with whitish ring around center, juicy, hollow, sub-acid; quality fair; season late, or with Sparkle.

ESSEX

ESSSEX (N. Y. 7225) was produced by crossing Howard (Premier) with Deutsch Evern, an old, early-ripening German variety. The cross was made in 1926. A total of 965 seedlings fruited and selections were made in 1928. Essex was named in 1950 and introduced in the 1952-53 catalog of the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., Geneva, N. Y.

Essex is a variety for the home gardener. The quality is excellent and the first berries ripen nearly a week before Howard (Premier), a desirable feature as it lengthens the season for high-quality home-grown strawberries. The plants are vigorous and produce satisfactory crops for home use. In one season the flowers were injured by a frost to the same extent as the flowers of Howard.

The berries are too small for a good commercial variety, being only of medium size at the start and becoming too small for a market berry after the first two pickings.

Plants vigorous, produced freely, productive, leaves medium size, glossy, light green, rugose; petioles long, medium thick; flowers perfect, medium size with 5-6 petals; stamens numerous; fruit-stems long, medium thick, semi-erect with the fruit clustered at the top, pedicels long, slender, with appressed pubescence; calyx medium to small, slightly depressed on larger berries to flat on smaller berries, bright green, adhering firmly; sepals medium in length, narrow; fruit medium size, becoming small after first two pickings, short wedge conic, regular, apex pointed; color glossy medium red, coloring evenly; skin tender; seeds medium in number, sunken; appearance not seedy; flesh red with whitish ring around center, juicy, tender, solid; flavor subacid; quality very good; season very early or 5-7 days earlier than Howard (Premier).



Essex

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DRESDEN

THE Dresden strawberry (N. Y. 10183) originated from a cross made in 1929 between Beacon and Howard (Premier). It was selected in 1931 from a population of 431 seedlings. Dresden was introduced in the 1938-39 catalog of the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Inc., of Geneva, N. Y.

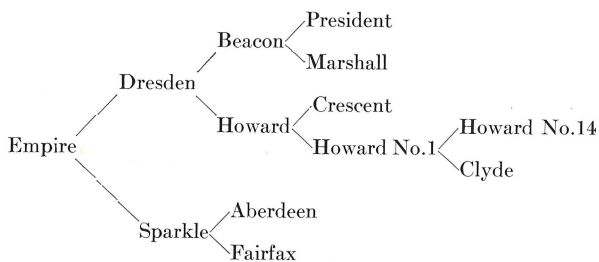
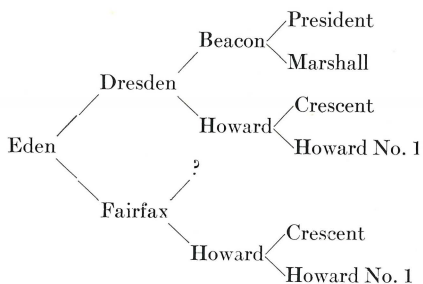
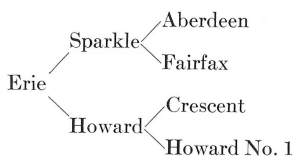
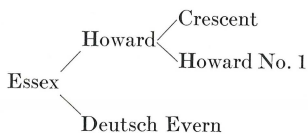
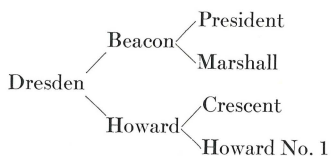
Dresden is a heavy yielding, early ripening strawberry introduced for trial as a market variety. The principal features of Dresden which were responsible for its naming are the heavy crop of uniformly large, smooth berries and freedom from nubbins and sterility of the last flowers. Size is maintained well throughout the picking season. The color is glossy medium red and attractive. The skin is tougher than that of Howard (Premier).

Dresden was thoroughly tested by growers and experiment stations, and although the early reports indicated that it was heavy yielding and attractive, it did not become well-established and is not available from

nurseries at present. It was grown to some extent in Oswego County for several years. In cold regions when not heavily mulched the crown experienced winter injury and the foliage collapsed when the berries began to ripen. The color was an unattractive yellowish red in some cases, the flavor acid, and the quality inferior to that of Catskill and other good varieties.

Dresden has been an outstanding parent in breeding strawberries, transmitting its productiveness and freedom from end-season sterility to many of its seedlings.

Plants vigorous, produced freely, very productive; leaves medium size, dull medium green, rugose; petioles medium in length and thickness; flowers perfect, medium size, primary flowers with 8 petals, others 5-6 petals; stamens numerous; fruit-stems long, medium thick, semi-erect, with fruit clustered at top; pedicels medium in length and thickness with appressed pubescence; calyx medium size, slightly raised to flat, segments both reflexed and clasping, bright medium green with a few reddish, adhering firmly; sepals medium in length, narrow; fruit large, maintaining size well through the season, conic to slightly wedge conic, primary berry wedge conic, regular; apex pointed; color glossy medium red, coloring evenly; skin moderately tough; seeds raised, appearance not seedy; flesh red with faint whitish ring around center, juicy, medium firm, solid; flavor subacid, quality fair; season early or a day later than Howard (Premier).



FAMILY TREE OF THE STRAWBERRY VARIETIES DESCRIBED HERE

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